

predetermined length of the tube; allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube, and welding the surfaces of contact between the stent and the tube.

The present invention also relates to a method for applying a covering layer to a stent by forming a tube of predetermined length with an elastomeric polymerisable composition; coating the inside of the tube with an adhesive medium; radially contracting the stent; inserting into the tube a portion of the stent corresponding to said predetermined length of the tube; allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube; and allowing the adhesive medium to cure.

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The present invention also relates to a method for applying a covering layer to a stent by forming a tube of predetermined length with an elastomeric polymerisable composition; coating the inside of the tube with an elastomeric polymerisable composition dissolved in a sufficient amount of solvent to permit contact forming; radially contracting the stent; inserting into the tube a portion of the stent corresponding to said predetermined length of the tube; allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube; evaporating the solvent; and polymerizing the elastomeric composition adhered by contact to the tube and to the stent.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 14 without prejudice or disclaimer of matter contained therein.

Please add the following claims:

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L-16. (New) A method for applying a covering layer to a stent comprising:

- (a) forming a tube made out of an elastomeric polymerisable composition;
- (b) radially contracting the stent;
- (c) inserting into the tube at least a portion of the stent; and
- (d) radially expanding at least the portion of the stent in the tube or allowing at least the portion of the stent to expand in the tube, and chemically bonding at least the portion of the stent and the tube together.--

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16. (New) A method for applying a covering layer to a stent comprising:

- (a) forming a tube made out of an elastomeric polymerisable composition;
- (b) coating the inside of the tube with an adhesive medium;
- (c) radially contracting the stent;
- (d) inserting into the tube at least a portion of the stent;
- (e) radially expanding at least the portion of the stent in the tube or allowing at least the portion of the stent to expand in the tube; and
- (f) curing the adhesive medium between at least the portion of the stent in the tube.--

17. (New) A method for applying a covering layer to a stent comprising:

- (a) forming a tube from an elastomeric polymerisable composition;
- (b) preparing an elastomeric composition dissolved in a solvent;
- (c) coating the inside of the tube with the elastomeric composition dissolved in the solvent;
- (d) radially contracting the stent;
- (e) inserting into the tube at least a portion of the stent;
- (f) radially expanding at least the portion of the stent in the tube or allowing at least the portion of the stent to radially expand in the tube;
- (g) evaporating the solvent; and
- (h) polymerizing the elastomeric composition to the tube and to the stent.--

18. (New) A method for covering a stent comprising:

- (a) inserting a radially contracted stent into a tube, the tube having an inner surface and the stent having an inner and outer surface;
- (b) radially expanding the stent or allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube so that at least part of the stent outer surface makes contact with at least part of the tube inner surface;

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(c) coating at least part of the inner and/or the outer surface of the stent with a polymerisable composition;

(d) polymerizing the polymerisable composition; and

(e) removing the coated stent from the tube.--

--19. (New) A method for covering a stent comprising:

(a) coating a surface with a lifting medium;

(b) coating the surface with a polymerisable composition;

(c) rolling at least a portion of an expanded stent on the surface to coat at least part of the stent with the polymerisable composition;

(d) removing the stent from the surface; and

(e) polymerizing the polymerisable composition.--

--20. (New) A method for covering a stent comprising:

(a) forming a polymeric tube having an inner surface;

(b) inserting a contracted stent into the tube, the stent having an inner surface and an outer surface;

(c) radially expanding the stent or allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube so that at least part of the stent outer surface makes contact with at least part of the tube inner surface; and

(d) chemically bonding at least a part of the outer surface of the stent to the inner surface of the tube.--

--21. (New) A method for covering a stent comprising:

(a) forming a polymeric tube having an inner surface;

(b) coating the inner surface of the tube with an adhesive medium;

(c) inserting a contracted stent into the tube;

(d) radially expanding the stent in the tube or allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube; and